carriers during the last 5 years nas been as under:—

	Air India	Foreign carriers
1991-92	0.4	6.7
1992-93	7.6	9.1
1993-94	−6.5	7.3
1994-95	9.3	3.9
1995-96	20.3	16.3

Thus it can be seen that Air India's performance has shown steady improvement during the last two years.

Changing the Composition of Export

*525. SHRI YERRA NARAYANA-SWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to change the composition of exports during the next five years;

(b) if so, whether any ground work has been done;

(c) what is the proposed outline of the policy; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) to (d) As per the provisions of the Exim policy (1997-2002) all the commodities could be exported excepting those in the negative list of exports. The country's export basket is diversified and consists of a large numbr of items in different commodity groups such as plantations, Agri. & Allied products, Marine products, Ores & minerals, Leather & manufactures, Gems & Jewellery, Sports Goods, Chemicals, & related products, Engineering Goods, Electronic Goods, project Goods, Textiles, Handicrafts, Carpets, Cotton raw, Petroleum products etc. The composition and performance of exports is influenced inter-alia by international market conditions tariff and non-tariff barriers besides domestic factors such as the policy framework, supply conditions/capabilities, infrastructure, cost of export credit etc.

Having regard to the export performance and the country's potential for exports, it has been decided to evolve a medium term strategy for improving the growth of exports through country specific and commodity specific initiatives. For this purpose a Working Group within the Ministry has already initiated work. Apart from internal discussions and review, the Working Group will also hold discussions with Export Promotion Councils and Commodity Boards for finalising a medium term strategy shortly.

Air traffic passenger growth in the domestic aviation industry

*527. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the targets set for air traffic passenger growth in the domestic aviation industry during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) upto what extent these targets have been achieved;

(c) the target set for 1997-98;

(d) the reasons for not achieving the targets of air traffic passenger growth; and

(e) in what way Government propose to improve the passenger growth?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) and (b) Traffic forecast according to the Planning Group on Aviation, set up by the Government, for carriage of domestic passenger traffic, was 29.9 million for the year 1996-97, the last year of the VIII Five Year Plan. The actual passengers carried were 11.9 million in 1996-97.

(c) The report of the Sub-Group to assess the growth in passenger and cargo traffic and capacity requirements during the 9th Five Year Plan has indicated the